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Drag queen Pattie Gonia responds to Patagonia's $1 lawsuit over trademark infringement

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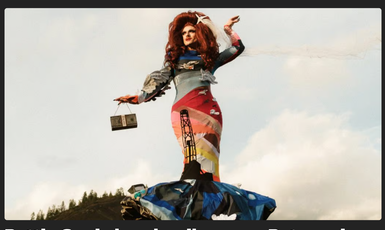
Drag queen Pattie Gonia has responded after the outdoor clothing brand Patagonia sued for $1 over trademark infringement.

Back in January, clothing brand Patagonia filed a lawsuit against drag queen Pattie Gonia over trademark infringement in Los Angeles federal court.

The outdoor brand sued the drag queen, whose real name is Wyn Wiley, for $1 in damages, as well as legal fees, claiming that her merchandise would "irreparably harm" its brand.

"We want Pattie to have a long and successful career and make progress on issues that matter – but in a way that respects Patagonia's intellectual property and ability to use our brand to sell products and advocate for the environment," they said.

The drag queen is also an environmental activist. Wiley went viral back in December, just before the lawsuit was filed, raising more than $1.1 million after backpacking a 100-mile trek in full drag across the California coast. Wiley has now responded to the filing.



Pattie Gonia breaks silence on Patagonia lawsuit

"Patagonia told the media that they're only suing me for $1, what they're actually trying to do is take away my name permanently and threaten me with more than $1 million in legal fees," Wiley said, calling the lawsuit a "betrayal" of Patagonia's "core mission" as a brand.

"Over the last four months, since the lawsuit was filed, I have stayed silent and worked every channel I had to resolve this without going to court," Wiley added.

"But in the end, I had two choices. The erasure of my name, my advocacy, my community, and everyone I employ. Or fight for myself and fight for us. So I'm fighting, and I'm inviting you to join me in a simple call to action: Patagonia, drop the lawsuit."

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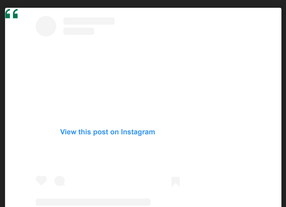
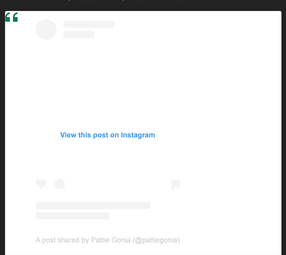


The drag queen also posted a lengthy letter to Patagonia, admitting they are "afraid and frustrated" by the situation.

"This is so much wasted time and money that could be spent fighting for the planet, and instead Patagonia is taking a climate activist to court when I have offered them everything I could to avoid this," Wiley added. "They chose this. Not me."



"This matter is not about seeking financial gain, nor is it about challenging anyone's identity or right to advocacy, protest, or creative expression," Patagonia told The Guardian.

"The last thing we wanted was a legal fight with someone who shares our values, but we must protect our business and employees."

It remains to be seen as to what the outcome of the case will be, but the brand's social media channels have already been filled with calls to drop the lawsuit.

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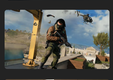
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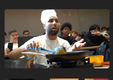
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